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inside diameter that surrounds said plurality of tines, and wherein when a pin is mated inside of said socket, said plurality of tines extend radially outward a greater amount at said tip than at said distal end, and wherein a gap that exists intermediate said plurality of tines and said inside diameter of said hood is substantially identical along a longitudinal length of said plurality of tines.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified patent application is hereby respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 2, 3, and 4 have been amended. Claims 2-11 remain in the case.

A petition and fee for an appropriate extension of time is attached hereto along with a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) and payment thereof.

1-2. The rejection of claims 2-11 under 35 USC 112 is not understood. The Examiner asserts that a secant is not

disclosed or shown in the original application. During the normal course of prosecution it becomes necessary and customary to add further limitations to the scope of the claims to overcome prior references.

When these limitations are inherent in the disclosed structures, antecedent basis must also be inherent. If a circle was disclosed, for example, and to overcome a prior art rejection, an additional limitation was required that recited "a diameter of said circle" it could not be asserted that a diameter was never disclosed. It is inherent as a property of the circle. If the circle was disclosed, its having a diameter is also disclosed because it is a property inherent with all circles. If the word diameter was not used in the original specification sufficient antecedent basis to support the existence of a diameter is not absent. If a circle is disclosed so it the fact that it has a diameter.

Similarly, a secant is inherent whenever an arc is present (See most engineering references or Webster's dictionary). Accordingly, the applicant and undersigned disagree with the Examiner's assertion and ask for reconsideration after the discussions that follow.

To further prosecution on the merits, the base claims have been amended to instead recite "chord" instead of secant so as to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Webster defines the geometrical definition of a "chord" as "a straight line segment joining any two points on an arc". Because an arc previously has been disclosed therefore a chord, whether stated or not, is inherent as a fundamental aspect of the disclosure of any arc.

As it is impossible for a chord to pass around the "outside diameter" of an arc while also maintaining the property of being a straight line, it is also inherent that the arc must extend along any two points across the inside of the arc. The word "chord" is presently used because even a casual definition (as found is Webster's) is adequate for the purpose of differentiating apart from the known prior art references. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

It matters not, for the purpose of differentiating the instant invention apart from the cited prior references, whether the chord extends from the extreme ends of the arc or anywhere else. In all cases, the use of the term chord is appropriate to further differentiate which side of the arc

is being referenced. The use of the term chord only serves to define which side of the arc is being referenced. The original drawings, by disclosing each tine in cross section, also include the property of having both an arc and a chord.

The original application, as filed, included as part of its disclosure the term "arc" which was used as a claim limitation and therefore the property of having a chord is inherent with the disclosure as it was originally filed.

While it is well believed that the above explanation is sufficient to allay any further concerns that might possibly remain, the specification has been amended to further include an additional recitation that defines a chord as it relates to the disclosure. As a chord is an inherent attribute or property present in the structure of any arc, and as an arc has been disclosed in the original specification, it is again noted that no new matter has been added. Only a further limitation as was present in the original disclosure is being included to comply with the statutory requirement "to more particularly point out and distinctly claim" the invention.

The new recitation in the specification defines a chord and its location with respect to the pin. If any ambiguity

were to remain, surely this is well believed to eliminate it. Antecedent basis as support of the instant amendments is provided in the original application as filed, in the claims.

If for any reason, the Examiner has any other preference or helpful suggestion, please contact the undersigned who would be pleased to consider whatever the Examiner has to offer.

3-7. The remaining rejections essentially echo the original rejections because the Examiner did not give the limitation (secant) any further consideration. While it is possible to make further argument with reference to these rejections, such is believed to be moot in light of the instant amendments to the base claims.


As all remaining claims 2-11 appear to be in condition of allowance, reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested, and a notice of allowance is courteously urged at the earliest time.

8. The applicant notes the final rejection and again appreciates the opportunity to communicate by telephone with the Examiner if necessary. The Examiner is again urged to

contact, preferably by telephone, the undersigned should any issues remain that prevent a notice of allowance from being sent.

Please direct all future correspondence to the new correspondence address and telephone as shown below. The correspondence address has not been updated. If the Examiner requires any additional submission to effect a change in address please contact the undersigned via the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

 7-29-03
Risto A. Rinne, Jr.

2173 East Francisco Blvd.
Suite E
San Rafael, CA 94901

1-415-457-6933